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International Year of Rice, 2004

Madagascar, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tajikistan: draft resolution

International Year of Rice, 2004

The General Assembly,

Noting that rice is the staple food of more than half of the world's population,

Affirming the need to heighten awareness of the interrelationship between poverty, food security, malnutrition and rice,

Convinced that global focus on the role of rice is crucial to ensuring global food security, poverty alleviation and the attainment of the Millennium development goals,

Convinced further that concerted efforts should focus on addressing issues and challenges brought about by problems of declining productivity, depletion of natural resources and environment and losses of biodiversity in present rice production systems,

1. *Decides* to declare the year 2004 the International Year of Rice;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the implementation of the International Year of Rice, in collaboration with Governments, the United Nations Development Programme, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Centres and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

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